

**GENEALOGY OF DR. FRANCIS
JOSEPH PFEIFFER OF
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA,
AND HIS DESCENDANTS, 1734-
1899**

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Genealogy of Dr. Francis Joseph Pfeiffer of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and His Descendants,
1734-1899 by Edwin Jaquett Sellers

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Joseph Peiffer

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1899



Introduction

For references of the Pfeiffer family in Germany and other parts of Europe, see the various biographical and encyclopædic works, Rietstap's "Armorial Register," and "Das Grosse und Vallständige (aufangs) Siebmacherische (hernacher Fürstische und Helmerische) nun ober (Neigelische) Wappen-Buch. In sechs Theilen, etc. Nürnberg, verlegt Christoph Weigels des ältern seel. wittve-Gedrucht bey Lorentz Bieling, 1784," generally referred to as "Das Siebmacherische gross Wappen-Buch," a copy of which is in possession of Mr. Julius F. Sachse, of Philadelphia.

For references of the "Piper" family of England, said to have come from Saxony, see Marshall's "Genealogist's Guide."

For references of the "Piper" family of New England, of English descent, see Munsell's "Genealogical Index," as well as other American indices.

For reference of the "Phifer" family of North Carolina, which claims descent from the "Pfeiffers of Peiffersburg," see "Reminiscences and Memoirs of North Carolina and Eminent North Carolinians," by John H. Wheeler. One of this family, John Phifer, signed the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence."

For reference to persons of the name of Pfeiffer, although variously spelled, who came to Pennsylvania, see "Immigrants in Pennsylvania, 1727-1776," by L. Daniel Rupp.

Should any additional information be possessed, it is hoped it may be communicated to the writer.

E. J. S.

PHILADELPHIA, May, 1899.

Doctor Francis Joseph Pfeiffer and his Descendants

I. 1. DOCTOR FRANCIS JOSEPH PFEIFFER, a native of Germany, was born May, 1734.* Volume XVII of the "Pennsylvania Archives," Second Series, page 375, contains the following reference to his arrival in America :

"List of foreigners imported in the Ship Phoenix, Capt. Reuben Honer, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes, England. Qualified Nov. 22, 1752."

The name of "Frantz Joseph Pfeiffer" appears in the list of passengers.

Concerning Dr. Pfeiffer's marriage there are contradictory statements. His Bible, in possession of Miss Mary Matilda Bryant, of Philadelphia, a great-granddaughter, contains a record written in German, and which, translated, is as follows :

"The 25th March, 1756, Anna Margaretha Beckerin was given to me in marriage."

According to this, which seems conclusive, the name of his wife was Ann or Anna Margaret Becker. We find, however, in the list of marriages published in the "Pennsylvania Archives," Second Series, Volume VIII, page 488, among those celebrated at the Old Swedes' Church, Philadelphia, the following :

* Epitaph.

"1756, March 25, Pfeiffer, Francis Joseph, and Margarete Wallter."

An examination of the original records of the church produced the following :

"Mar. 25, 1756, marriage of Francis Joseph Pfeiffer and Margarete Wallter, by publishing ye 25th of March, 1756."

The ceremony was performed by the rector, the Rev. Olof Parlin.

The name given in his Bible has been adopted.

The first reference found, styling him a physician, is in the Recorder of Deeds' office, Philadelphia, Book I, No. 16, page 242. Conveyance by Charles West, of Philadelphia, Cooper, and Hannah his wife, to Joseph Pfeiffer, of Flour Town, in the County of Philadelphia, "Practitioner in Physick," Nov. 28, 1763.

Volume II of the "Pennsylvania Archives," Second Series, page 447, contains the following reference to his naturalization :

"At a Supreme Court held at Philadelphia, before Lawrence Growdon and William Coleman, Esquires, Judges of the said Court, the twenty fourth day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, between the Hours of nine and twelve of the clock in the forenoon of the same day, the following subscribing persons being foreigners:" continuing on page 450,

"The persons hereafter named, being Foreigners, and of the People called Quakers, and other *Protestants*, who conscientiously scruple to take an Oath, Severally took the Affirmations & made the Declaration according to the Directions of an Act of the thirteenth Year of King George the Second, entitled 'an Act for naturalizing such foreign Protestants and others therein mentioned as are settled or shall settle in any of his majesty's Colonies in America,' and of an Act of General Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, made in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty-two:"

In the list of names appears "Joseph Pfeiffer, of Springfield, Philadelphia County."

References in the Recorder of Deeds' Office, Philadelphia, to land conveyed to and by Dr. Pfeiffer:

Book D, No. 59, page 176. Nov. 14, 1759. Standish Ford and wife, of Phila., to Joseph Pfeiffer, of same place. Property on Second Street.

Book D, No. 58, page 282. Aug. 26, 1761. Joseph Pfeiffer of Phila., and Margaret his wife to Gallus Sleighter of same place. Conveyance of property received from Standish Ford and wife.

Book I, No. 16, page 242. Nov. 28, 1768. Charles West, of Phila., Cooper, and Hannah his wife to Joseph Pfeiffer of Flour Town, County of Phila., Practitioner in Physick. Property on Second Street.

Book D, No. 8, page 269. May 28, 1764. Joseph Pfeiffer, of Flour Town, County of Philadelphia, Practitioner in Physick, and Margaret his wife to Christopher Rex. Conveyance of ten acres formerly purchased by Dr. Pfeiffer.

Book I, page 243. Nov. 12, 1773. Bowyer Brooke, of Phila., Boatbuilder, and Hannah his wife, to Joseph Pfeiffer of the Northern Liberties, County of Phila., Practitioner in Physick. Property on Coats Street.

Book I, No. 16, page 519. Oct. 7, 1776. William Sitgreaves, of Phila., Merchant, and Susanna his wife, and John Whiteman, of the Northern Liberties, to Joseph Pfeiffer, of the same place, Practitioner in Physick. Conveyance of three acres and seventeen perches in the Northern Liberties.

Book D, No. 9, page 541. Dec. 8, 1782. Col. William Coats and wife to Doctor Joseph Pfeiffer, of the Northern Liberties. Property Fourth and Poplar Lane.